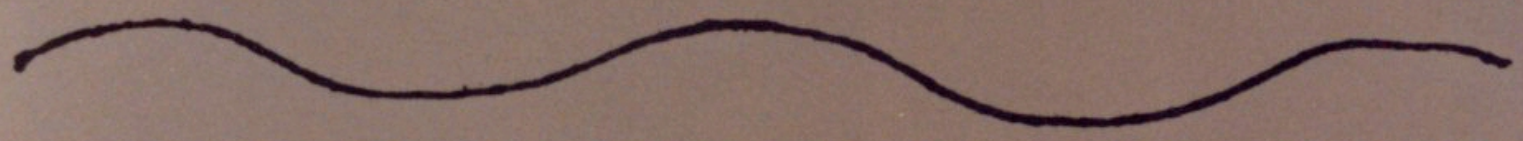
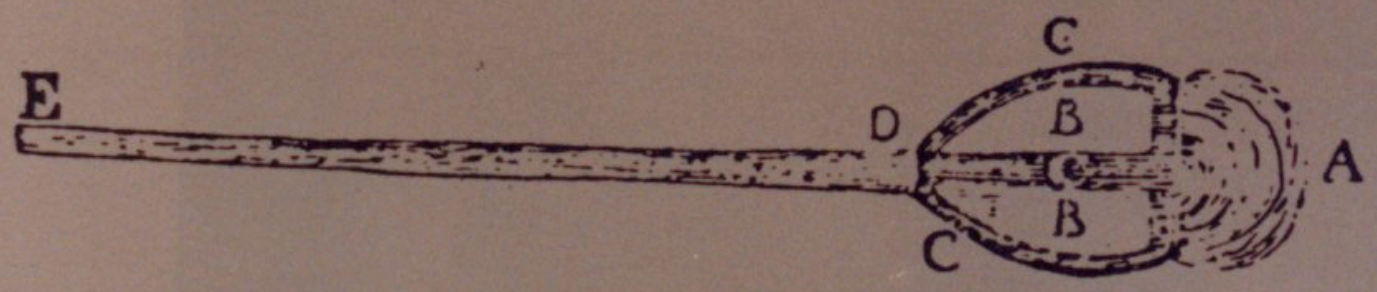
19.Le 16 décembre 1742, un engin artificiel, résolument inconnu, survolait Londres. Voici l'objet tel que le témoin le décrivait dans les « Philosophical Transactions », vol. 43, 1742 (document extrait de « Official UFO », avril 1976, p. 19 - référence n° 236).

As I was returning home from the *Royal Society* to *Westminster*, on *Thursday*, Dec. 16. 1742. h. 8. 40'. *p. m.* being about the Middle of the Parade in *St. James's Park*, I saw a Light arise from behind the Trees and Houses in the S by W. Point, which I took at first for a large Sky-Rocket; but when it had risen to the Height of about 20 Degrees, it took a Motion nearly parallel to the Horizon, but waved in this manner,



and went on to the N. by E. Point over the Houses. It seemed to be so very near, that I thought it passed over *Queen's Square*, the Island in the Park, cross the Canal, and I lost Sight of it over the *Haymarket*. Its Motion was so very slow, that I had it above half a Minute in View; and therefore had Time enough to contemplate its Appearance fully, which was what is seen in the annexed Figure,



A seemed to be a light Flame, turning backwards from the Resistance the Air made to it. *B B* a bright Fire like burning Charcoal, inclosed as it were in an open Case, of which the Frame *C C C* was quite opaque, like Bands of Iron. At *D* issued forth a Train or Tail of light Flame, more bright at *D*, and growing gradually fainter at *E*, so as to be transparent more than half its Length. The Head seemed about half a Degree in Diameter, the Tail near 3 Degrees in Length, and about one Eighth of a Degree in Thickness.

C. M.